(c) whether Government propose to take any fresh concrete steps to boost the growth rate of bank deposits during the year 1994-95; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the date on deposits received in the Hindustan Times dated 7th April, 1994 relate to the last Friday of December, 1993 and are based on a calender year basis. However, the aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks recorded an increase of Rs. 45243/- crores (16.8%) during the financial year 1993-94 as compared with an increase of Rs. 37813 crores (16.4%) during the previous financial year 1992-93. The growth rate desposits in 1993-94 was higher than the revised working estimates of Rs. 39000 crores (14.5%) stipulated for the year by Reserve Bank of India. The above growth rate is considered satisfactory. However it may be mentioned that the growth in deposits depends, inter-alia on various factors like the growth in income, the rate of inflation, interest rates on deposits and on alternative financial instruments.

**Agreement between India and Britain on Safeguarding Investments**

6493. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Britain an agreement was signed for securing and safeguarding the Indian and British investments in each other's countries; and

(b) if so, the terms of agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of the agreement are:

—The investments of either country will be protected in the other country;

—Most Favoured Nation Treatment will be accorded by either country to the other country;

—There is provision for settlement of investment disputes;

—Provision has also been made for providing compensation in case of expropriation/nationalisation;

—This agreement will be effective for ten year; thereafter it shall continue in force until a year after either Government has given written notice of termination to the other;

—The agreement will become effective only after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

**Loans advanced by public sector and commercial banks**

6494. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan advanced by the public sector and commercial banks to priority sector during each of the last three years; and

(b) the amount of loan advanced to agricultural and micro business sectors, separately, during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The amount of loans advanced by all scheduled commercial banks including public sector banks to priority sector, small scale industries, Retail

Trade and Small Business during the years ending June 1990, 1991 and 1992 (latest available) is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

| Sector | June 1990 | June 1991 | June 1992 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Priority Sector | 9029.3 | 9432.5 | 9605.4 |
| Small Scale Industries | 2858.5 | 2781.0 | 3089.9 |
| Retail Trade | 479.2 | 450.7 | 411.5 |
| Small Business | 346.4 | 398.3 | 328.9 |

**Funds to States by Eighth Finance Commission**

6495. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reconsidering the cases of those States which had been provided less funds by the Eighth Finance Commission;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to release the reduced funds to the State concerned to compensate their deficit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the special facilities being provided to the special category States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) In addition to general facility of providing Central Plan Assistance in the shape of 10% loan and 90% grant to the Special Category States in place of 70% loan and 30% grant being provided to Non-special Category States, following additional facilities are being provided to Special Category States, on the recommendations of the Rangarajan Committee set up by the Planning Commission to find durable solution to financial problems of Special Category States and the Inter Ministerial Group set up by the Ministry of Finance to look into the financial problems of Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab:

(i) Transfer of 7th Plan committed expenditure to plan side enabling the States to reduce the non-plan gap.

(ii) Permitting the Special Category States to utilise 20% of the Central Plan Assistance (30% in case of Assam and Jammu & Kashmir) for meeting non-plan expenditure enabling them to reduce the non-plan gap.

**Cases against customs officials**

6496. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 28th February, 1994 captioned Customs officials customary charity' revealing the smuggling of commercial goods worth several lacs of rupee in the guise of 'Transfer of Residence' baggage (TR) in collusion with customs officials;

(b) if so, how many such cases have come to notice and what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against the customs officials concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Modification in Warehousing Law**

6497. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether government propose to review and modify the warehousing laws